

B X

9921

.M3

FIRST STEPS TOWARD HEAVEN

For Little Christians.

PREPARED BY

MRS. ABBIE F. MARSH.

BOSTON:

UNIVERSALIST PUBLISHING HOUSE.

1889.

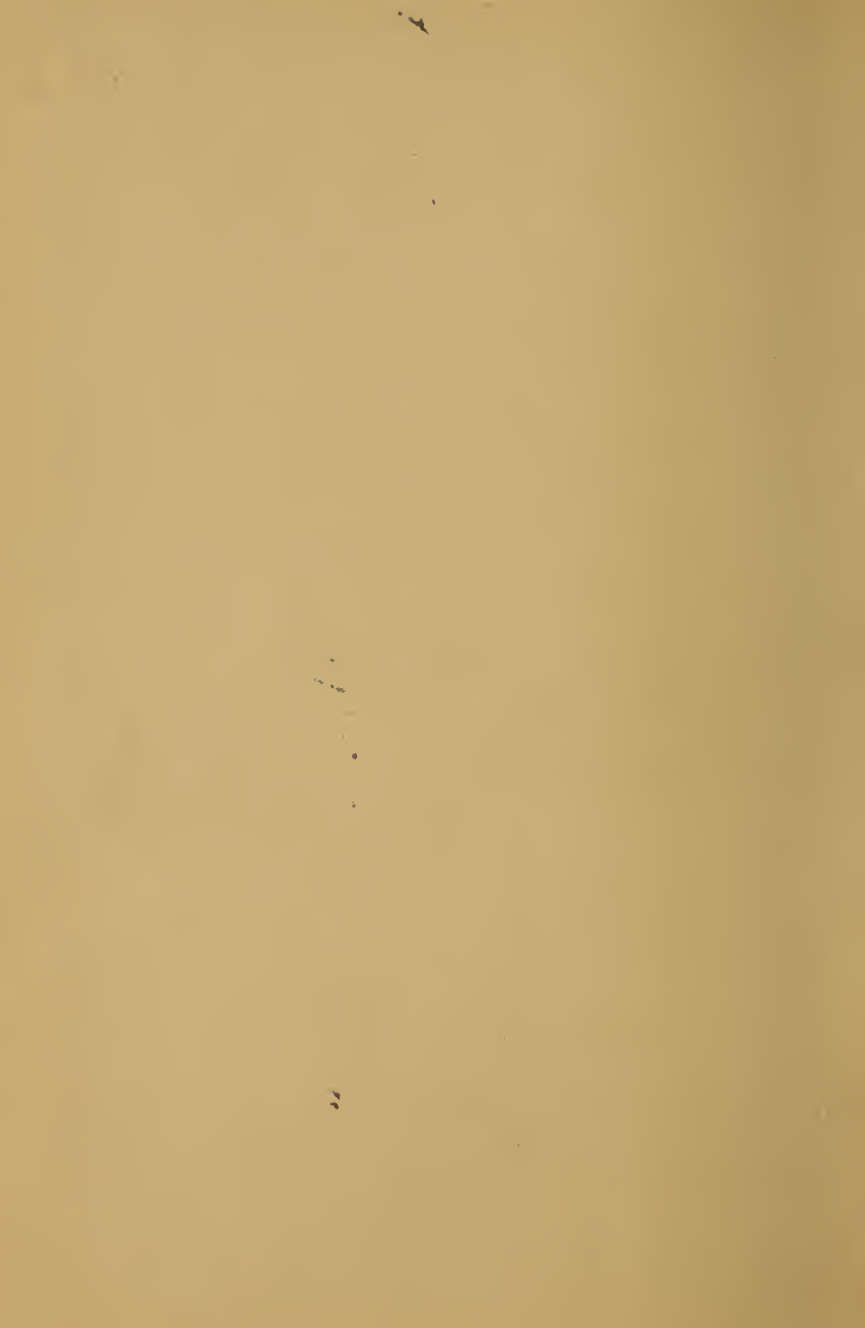
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

~~BX 9921~~
Chap. Copyright No. M3

Shelf

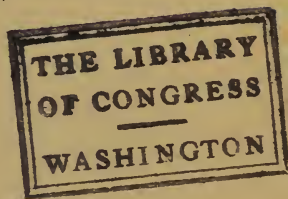
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.





FIRST STEPS TOWARD HEAVEN

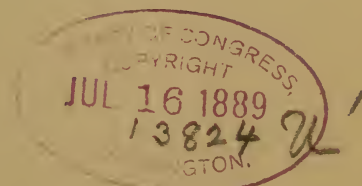
For Little Christians.



PREPARED BY

MRS. ABBIE F. MARSH.

17
1814



BOSTON:
UNIVERSALIST PUBLISHING HOUSE.
1889.

BX9921
.M3

Copyright, 1889,
BY THE UNIVERSALIST PUBLISHING HOUSE.

University Press:
JOHN WILSON AND SON, CAMBRIDGE.

TO THE
CHILDREN OF THE INFANT DEPARTMENT
OF
ALL SOULS UNIVERSALIST SUNDAY-SCHOOL,
WORCESTER, MASS.

EACH FACE OF WHOM HAS BECOME SO DEAR TO ME AS
TO MAKE MY LABORS WITH THEM A PLEASURE, AND IN
WHOSE INTEREST IT WAS WRITTEN,

This little Book is affectionately Dedicated

BY THE AUTHOR.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

	PAGE
THE HOLY BIBLE	15
CHRIST'S LOVE FOR LITTLE CHILDREN	17
CHRISTMAS	19
THE HOLY SABBATH	21
PRAYER	23
EASTER	26
ADAM AND EVE	29
THE TOWER OF BABEL	34
OUR SAVIOUR	56

INTRODUCTION.

THESE lessons were arranged by the author to assist in teaching a large class of little ones, some of whom had never had any previous religious instruction, the design of the book being to give them a clear and simple outline of religion so permeated with God's love as to be never separated from it, without confusing and discouraging them with facts that should be taught later, when their minds are prepared by these lessons to give them their proper place. While being a help to the teacher, each lesson allows her full scope to illustrate it in her own way, which is so important in making it interesting.

The author is convinced that it is best to have a special "Opening Service" for the Infant Department, as it can be made so simple and interesting that they soon learn to take part in it and enjoy it. I almost feel its importance to be equal to that of the lesson; for I take as much pains in preparing my "remarks," and making them instructive and especially applicable to the lesson, or day, or some event that has recently happened that can furnish a moral, as I do in preparing the regular lesson.

A. F. M.

JUNE, 1889.

ORDER OF OPENING SERVICE.

THE School should always be opened with prayer by the superintendent or teacher in charge, which should be so simple as to be understood by the children; or a prayer like the following is recommended, the children repeating it with the teacher.

OPENING PRAYER.

OUR Father in heaven,
Be near us to-day;
We know thou wilt listen
To us while we pray.
We thank thee for all
Thy good gifts, and thy love;
For home, friends, and happiness
Come from above.
Forgive us our sins,
And help us be good;
And make us like Jesus,
So gentle and good.

SINGING.

CONFESSION OF FAITH.

[Children to be seated, and repeat with teacher.]

ARTICLE I. We believe that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments contain a revelation of the character of God, and of the duty, interest, and final destination of mankind.

ARTICLE II. We believe that there is one God, whose nature is Love, revealed in one Lord Jesus Christ, by one Holy Spirit of Grace, who will finally restore the whole family of mankind to holiness and happiness.

ARTICLE III. We believe that holiness and true happiness are inseparably connected, and that believers ought to be careful to maintain order and practise good works; for these things are good and profitable unto men.

TEN COMMANDMENTS IN VERSE.

THOU shalt have no more gods but me.
Before no idol bow thy knee.
Take not the name of God in vain;
Nor dare the Sabbath Day profane.
Give to thy parents honor due.
Beware that thou no murder do.
Abstain from words and deeds unclean;
Nor steal, though thou be poor and mean;
Nor tell a wilful lie, nor love it.
What is thy neighbor's do not covet.

**READING OF A SHORT SELECTION FROM THE
BIBLE BY THE SUPERINTENDENT.**

[Which should be illustrated in some manner to make it interesting, and to leave an impression on the minds of the children.]

**BLACKBOARD EXPLANATION OF "INTERNA-
TIONAL LESSON," AND REMARKS.**

MARCHING BY CHILDREN.

[With organ accompaniment or singing, each child dropping the penny contribution in a receptacle placed conveniently for the purpose, the leader being a scholar who has been constant in attendance, and who should hold the place until absent.]

SINGING.

[Children to rise, and stand until close of service.]

THE LORD'S PRAYER.

[All repeating.]

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Close of Opening Service.

Part First.

GENERAL LESSONS.

LESSON I.

GOD OUR HEAVENLY FATHER.

Who made all things?

God.

Can you think of any good thing that we have that does not come from God?

[After the children have answered the question, the teacher should illustrate it until perfectly understood by them.]

Why does he give us all these good things?

Because he loves us.

Does he ever forget us?

No ; he watches over and cares for us all the time.

What does God ask in return for all his loving care?

That we should be good, and obey his laws.

What are some of God's laws.

The Ten Commandments.

Where are the Ten Commandments to be found?

In the Bible, God's own book.

Can any one repeat the Ten Commandments in verse?

- (1) *Thou shalt have no more Gods but me.*
- (2) *Before no idol bow thy knee.*
- (3) *Take not the name of God in vain ;*
- (4) *Nor dare the Sabbath Day profane.*
- (5) *Give to thy parents honor due.*
- (6) *Beware that thou no murder do.*
- (7) *Abstain from words and deeds unclean ;*
- (8) *Nor steal, though thou be poor and mean ;*
- (9) *Nor tell a wilful lie, nor love it.*
- (10) *What is thy neighbor's do not covet.*

Why has God made these laws?

That we should know the right way to live, and be happy.

Can we be happy if we do not obey these laws?

No.

[Teacher illustrate how unhappiness is caused by breaking these laws.]

Can you think of any of God's laws that you have broken this last week?

God cares for every little child
That on this large earth lives.
He gives them clothes, and home, and food, —
And more than these God gives.

He gives them all their loving friends,
He gives each child its mother ;
He gives them all the happiness
Of loving one another.

He makes the earth all beautiful ;
He makes my eyes to see ;
And touch and hearing, taste and smell, —
He gives them all to me.

What can a little child give God?
From his bright heaven above
The great God smiles, and reaches down
To take his children's love.

MRS. PARKMAN.

LESSON II.

OUR SAVIOUR.

Who is Jesus Christ?

The Son of God.

Who sent him into the world?

God.

Why did he send him?

Because he loved us, and desired us to learn of him how to live a good life and be saved from our sins.

[Teacher illustrate how, instead of leaving his wicked people to continue in ignorance and sin, God's love for us was so great that he sent his only Son to save us.]

Were the people kind to Jesus?

No ; they persecuted and crucified him.

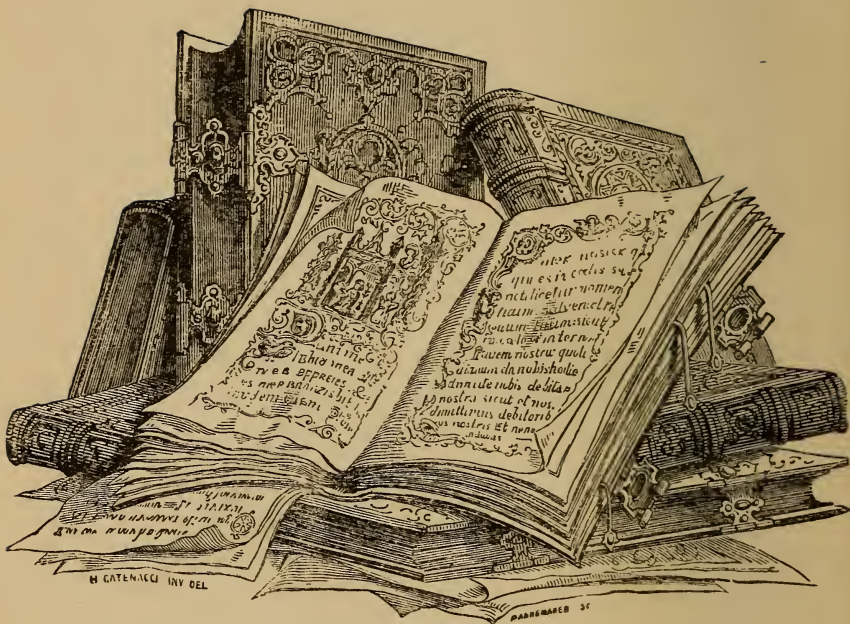
Did Jesus wish God to punish his persecutors?

No ; for he said, " Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." — LUKE xxiii. 34.

[The teacher should always have a Bible within reach, and teach the children how to find the quotations.]

How many years ago was Christ born?

[Teacher explain how time is reckoned from the birth of Christ.]



THE HOLY BIBLE.

LESSON III.

THE HOLY BIBLE.

What is the Bible called?

The Word of God.

Is there any better book in the world ?

No.

What book should we read if we wish to learn about God?

The Holy Bible.

Why do we call it the Holy Bible?

Because it never could have been written without God's help.

Is there any man too wise to need to read the Bible?

No ; even the wisest men can learn by reading the Bible.

Into how many parts is the Bible divided ?

Two, — the Old and New Testaments.

How many books are there in the Old Testament?

Thirty-nine.

How many in the New?

Twenty-seven.

Which part of the Bible tells of the birth of Christ, his perfect life, how he went about teaching the people the way of life, his sufferings, his crucifixion and death, his rising from the dead and ascension into heaven?

The New Testament.

Do wicked people love the Bible?

No.

[The children will take more interest if a Bible is before them.]

“ Oh, let me read my Bible o’er
With ever new delight ;
And may I love its pages more,
And seek God day and night.
Oh, let it purify my heart,
And guide me all my days ;
Its wonders, Lord, to me impart,
And teach my lips to praise.”



CHRIST'S LOVE FOR LITTLE CHILDREN.

LESSON IV.

CHRIST'S LOVE FOR LITTLE CHILDREN.

Did Jesus love little children?

He did.

How do we know this?

Because when little children were brought to him, and his disciples tried to send them away, he took them in his arms.

What did he say?

Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God. — ST. MARK X. 14.

[Teacher illustrate the lesson, telling the children how they can follow Christ's example, how noble it is to resist temptation, and how important it is for their happiness to keep the heart and mind pure, and how God knows every thought, and rejoices over every good and unselfish thought or action.]

I think when I read that sweet story of old,

When Jesus was here among men,

How he called little children as lambs to his fold,

I should like to have been with him then.

I wish that his hands had been placed on my
head,

That his arms had been thrown around me,
And that I might have seen his kind look when
he said,

“Let the little ones come unto me.”

HYMNS AND MUSIC FOR THE YOUNG.



CHRISTMAS.

LESSON V.

CHRISTMAS.

Why do we celebrate Christmas?

Because it is the birthday of Christ.

Where was Christ born?

In Bethlehem of Judea.

How many years ago?

How should we celebrate Christmas?

By making as many happy as we can.

Will that make us happy?

It will.

Does Christ want us to be happy?

He does.

What brings unhappiness?

Sin.

Is selfishness a sin?

It is, a great sin.

If all people were good should we all be happy?

We should be.

Can a little child do any good in the world?

Yes, a great deal of good.

Does a bad child cause unhappiness?

Yes, both to himself and also to others.

How does God feel toward a wicked child?

He is grieved.

[Teacher repeat how sin brings its own punishment, and that God's laws are irrevocable, and that we get the most good in this world by not breaking them.]

“ Oh, happy, joyous Christmas,
We children wait the day,
For Jesus loves us well, we know ;
His precepts we'll obey.
O God, we thank thee for thy gift
Of Christ thy only Son.
We'll sing our love, our hearts we'll lift,
To praise thee, every one.
All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace ;
Good-will henceforth from Heaven to men, —
God's grace will never cease.”



THE HOLY SABBATH.

LESSON VI.

THE HOLY SABBATH.

For whom was the Sabbath made?

The Sabbath was made for man. — MARK
ii. 27.

[Teacher impress on the minds of the children
what a blessing the Sabbath is to man.]

What does he command us to do on the
Sabbath?

*Remember the Sabbath-day to keep it
holy.* — EXODUS xx. 8.

Is that one of the Ten Commandments?

It is.

Which one?

The fourth.

Where in the Bible shall we find the Ten
Commandments?

*In the second book of the Old Testament,
twentieth chapter.*

[Teacher should let each pupil find it for him-
self.]

Oh, Sunday is a blessed day,
To holy worship given ;
When in God's house we meet to pray,
And learn the songs of heaven.
Bright, lovely day of holiest peace,
Of all the days the best,
When worldly occupations cease,
And we have heavenly rest.

SUNDAY HYMNS.



PRAYER.

LESSON VII.

PRAYER.

What is prayer?

A desire of the heart.

How is it manifest?

In asking of and communing with God.

Will he hear the prayer of a little child?

God will always.

Does he always give us what we ask for?

Not unless it is best for us that we should have it.

[Teacher illustrate.]

When should little children always pray?

Before going to sleep at night.

Why?

To thank God for his loving care of us through the day.

What else should we tell him?

Tell him of the naughty things we have done during the day, and how sorry we are.

Anything else?

Yes, ask him to forgive our sins.

Will he forgive us all our sins?

Yes, if we are truly sorry that we have done wrong and try to do better.

Should we not pray for others as well as ourselves?

Yes ; we should pray for those we love.

How can we follow Christ's example when we pray?

By praying for those that have injured us.

Should we pray to God at any other time?

Yes ; in the morning, to thank him for taking care of us through the long dark night.

And for what should we ask his help?

We should ask him to help us to be good through the day.

Is there any other time that we should pray to him?

Yes ; whenever we are tempted to do wrong, or are in trouble.

Will he always hear and help us?

Yes, if we are sincere.

Can any one repeat the Lord's Prayer?

Our Father who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread ;

And forgive us our trespasses

As we forgive them that trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

*For thine is the kingdom,
The power, and the glory,
Forever. Amen.*

Who gave us the Lord's Prayer?
Jesus.

[Teacher impress on the minds of the children the beauty and meaning of this prayer, and how it is adapted to every want and station in life.]

With humble heart and tongue,
Great God, to thee we pray ;
Oh, may we learn while we are young
To walk in wisdom's way.

Now in our early days
Teach us thyself to know ;
O God, thy sanctifying grace
Betimes on us bestow.

MANHATTON.

LESSON VIII.

EASTER.

On what day of the week did Christ rise from the dead?

On Sunday, the first day of the week.

What does his resurrection, or rising from the dead, mean to us?

It means that although we die we shall live again.

What is told us in the fifteenth chapter of First Corinthians about it?

As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. — 1 COR. XV. 22.

How many days was it after Christ was crucified before he rose from the dead?

Three days.

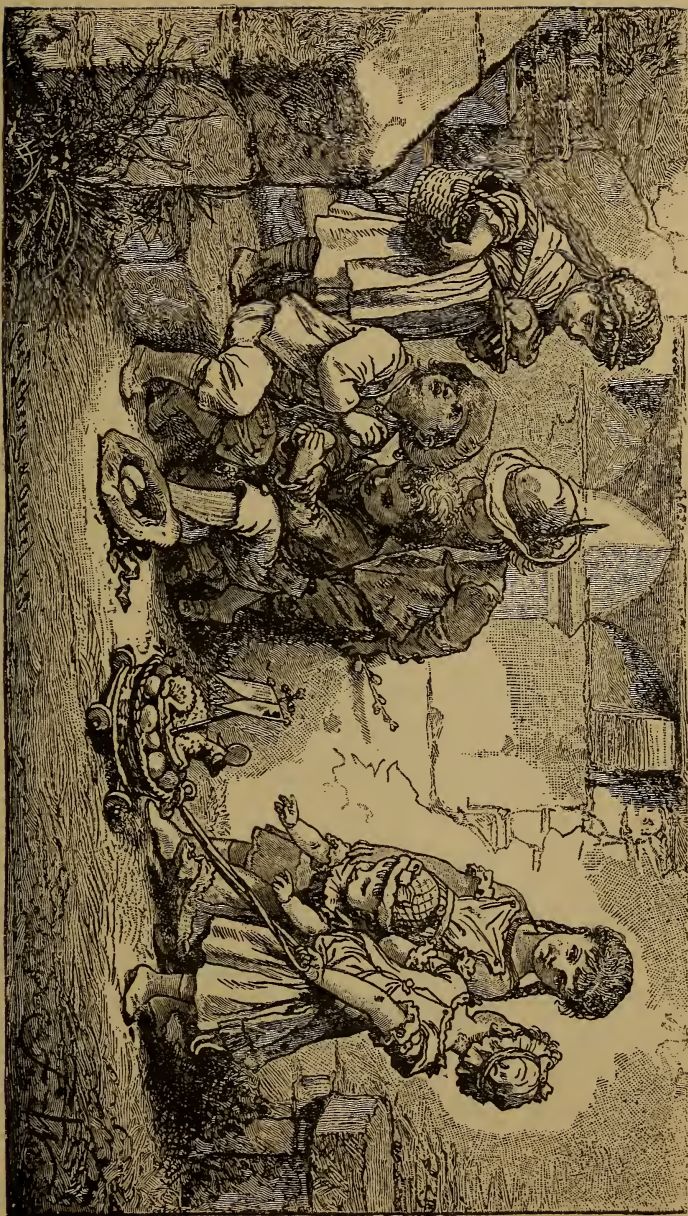
Which day of the year is the anniversary of his death?

Good Friday.

Why do we call it “ Good Friday ” ?

Because Christ died for us that we might be saved from our sins.

“ Now be God the Father praised,
With the Son from death upraised,
Who endured the cross and grave,
Sinners to redeem and save.”



EASTER.

LESSON IX.

OUR FAITH.

What is the Golden Rule?

Do unto others as you would that they should do unto you.

What do we come to Sunday School for?

To learn about God and Jesus, and how to be good and beautiful in God's sight.

What church do we attend?

The Universalist.

Why is the Universalist faith the most beautiful in the world?

Because it teaches us that God is love, and that love is the greatest power in the world, and that we shall not perish, but have everlasting life.

[Teacher explain the difference between filial love and love for our friends, and that more unselfish and Christlike love that recognizes every human being as a child of God, and causes us to hate, not the wicked man, but the *sin* that makes him wicked, and to love him so that we shall do all we can to separate him from his wickedness, and to be grieved instead of wrathful when any one does wrong.]

Part Second.

LESSONS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT.

LESSON I.

THE CREATION.

What was in the beginning?

The creation.

Where can we learn about the creation?

In the first book of the Bible.

What is the name of the book?

Genesis.

Can you repeat the first verse in the Bible?

Was God's work perfect?

It was.

[Teacher illustrate.]

After God had created the heavens and the earth, the sun, moon, and stars, the fishes, fowls, and beasts of the field, what did he create?

Man.

In whose image?

God's own image.



ADAM AND EVE.

LESSON II.

ADAM AND EVE.

Who was the first man?

Adam.

Who was the first woman?

Eve.

Where did God place Adam and Eve?

In the garden of Eden, a beautiful place.

Were they perfectly happy?

They would have been if they had not sinned.

How did they sin?

By not obeying God.

Were they punished for their sin?

Yes; they were cast out of the beautiful garden of Eden.

LESSON III.

CAIN AND ABEL.

Who were Cain and Abel?

They were the sons of Adam and Eve.

Were they good men?

Abel was a good man, but Cain was selfish and envious.

What is the meaning of selfish and envious?

What was Abel?

He was a keeper of sheep.

What was Cain?

He was a tiller of the ground.

What offering did Cain bring to the Lord?

He brought of the fruit of the ground.

What did Abel bring?

Abel's offering was of the firstlings of his flock.

Why was Cain jealous of Abel?

Because Abel's offering was more acceptable to the Lord than his.

What did Cain do?

He killed his brother Abel.

What did Cain say when God asked him where his brother was?

He said, "I know not; am I my brother's keeper?"

Did that deceive God?

No. God knows everything ; not only what we say, but what we think.

Was Cain punished?

He was.

How?

He became a vagabond on the earth.

LESSON IV.

NOAH.

As the people increased on the earth, did they obey God's commands?

No ; they grew very wicked.

Was there none good?

Yes ; Noah was a good man who obeyed God.

What did God tell Noah to build?

An ark.

After he had built it, what did he tell Noah to do?

To go into the ark, — he and his wife, his sons and their wives, and two of every living flesh.

How many sons had Noah?

Three ; Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Did Noah do as God commanded him?

He did.

What did God do then?

He sent a flood upon the earth.

How long did it rain?

Forty days and forty nights.

Did the waters cover everything on the face of the earth?

They did ; even the highest mountains.

Was everything destroyed that was not in the ark?

It was.

How was Noah saved?

The ark floated on top of the waters.

How long was it before the waters disappeared?

About a year.

After the waters abated, where did the ark rest?

On the mountains of Ararat.

What did Noah send forth from the ark?

A dove.

When he sent the dove the second time, what did it bring back?

An olive-leaf in its beak.

What did he know by that?

That the waters were disappearing.

When he sent the dove the third time did it come back?

No.

Did God say we should never have another flood?

Yes, he did.

What has he given us as a token of his promise?

The rainbow.

LESSON V.

THE TOWER OF BABEL.

What interesting event do we read of in the eleventh chapter of Genesis?

The building of the tower of Babel.

What was the object of the people in building such a high tower?

To build it so high that it would reach heaven.

Was that foolish and impossible?

It was.

How did God rebuke them for their foolishness?

He confused their tongues.

[Teacher explain that previously there was but one language, and how impossible it was for men to proceed in the work when they could no longer understand one another.]

Why was it called the tower of Babel?

Because Babel means confusion.



THE TOWER OF BABEL.

LESSON VI.

ABRAHAM.

What great man do we read of in Genesis who is sometimes called "the Father of the Faithful" ?

Abraham.

Why is he so called?

Because he had faith in God.

How did the people worship God in those days before there were any churches?

They built altars.

How?

By piling up stones in a heap and laying wood on top of them.

What did they generally burn on these altars for a sacrifice to God?

A lamb which had previously been killed.

As the smoke rose toward heaven what did they then do?

They stood around the altar and prayed to God.

How did God test Abraham's faith?

By asking Abraham to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice.

Did Abraham love his son as well as your father loves you?

He did.

What happened when Abraham laid Isaac on the altar and was about to slay him?

An angel of the Lord called to him, and told him that he must not do it.

What did Abraham see then?

A ram caught in a thicket.

Did he offer the ram as a sacrifice?

He did.

How should we show our faith in God?

By obeying his commandments and feeling that he knows best what is good for us.

Has God placed us in this world for any purpose?

He has.

Should we not try to do the best we can every day?

We should.

How many will try to-morrow morning to do the best they can?

If we fail, should we stop trying?

Always remember that God will help you to be good, if you ask him and are sincere.

How many ever heard the story of Rebecca at the well?

How many would like to hear it?

[Teacher relate the story.]

LESSON VII.

JACOB.

Whose son was Jacob?

Isaac's.

Did God change Jacob's name?

Yes.

What did he call him?

Israel.

How many sons had Israel?

Twelve.

Does the Bible tell us that he loved one more than the rest?

Yes; he loved Joseph best.

What did he give Joseph as a token of his love?

A coat of many colors.

Were his brothers displeased because he was a favorite with his father?

Yes.

After stripping off his coat of many colors and throwing him into a deep pit, what did they do?

They sold him to some Egyptians, who made a slave of him.

Why did his brothers dip his coat of many colors in the blood of a kid and carry it home?

To make his father think that a wild beast had devoured him.

LESSON VIII.

JOSEPH.

What did the men who bought Joseph do with him?

They sold him to one of Pharaoh's officers.

Who was Pharaoh?

King of Egypt.

Was Joseph favored by the king?

He was.

What did Pharaoh make him?

He made him ruler over all Egypt.

What happened to all the land?

There was a great famine.

What is a famine?

How long did the famine last?

Seven years.

Did Egypt share in the famine?

No ; the people had stored up corn in time of plenty.

Who had told them that there was to be a famine?

Joseph.

Who came to Egypt to buy corn?

Joseph's brothers.

Did they know Joseph?

No ; they bowed down before him.

Did Joseph know them?

Yes.

Did he let them know that he was their brother?

Not then.

What did he tell them to do, or he would not sell them corn?

To go home and bring their brother Benjamin.

Who was Benjamin?

His youngest brother, whom they had left at home.

Did he make himself known when they had brought his brother?

He did.

What would have become of his brothers if he had refused to sell them corn?

They would have died in the famine.

For whom did he send to come and stay in Egypt?

Israel his father ; and he cared for him and all his brothers.

Was not that a noble example of returning good for evil?

LESSON IX.

What were the descendants of Jacob, or Israel, as God named him, called?

Israelites, or the children of Israel.

What happened to the Israelites after Joseph and his brothers were dead?

They were made slaves and treated very cruelly.

What cruel law did the wicked king make?

That all the sons that were born to the Israelites should be put to death as soon as born.

Why did the king want this done?

He was afraid they would increase in numbers and grow powerful.

Was he not afraid that they would then no longer serve him?

He was.

LESSON X.

MOSES.

Have you ever heard of Moses in the bul-rushes?

Was not Moses one of the babies born to the Israelites?

He was.

By what other name were the Israelites, or children of Israel, called?

Hebrews.

Why was not the infant Moses put to death the same as the other Hebrew babies?

His mother hid him as long as she could.

What did she do when she could no longer hide him?

She put him in a little basket-boat of bul-rushes covered with pitch so that it would be water-proof, and placed him in the river.

As she put him in the tall reeds by the water's edge the basket could not float away; but did she leave him alone?

She told his sister Miriam to watch it near by.

Who came down to the river to bathe, and found the infant Moses?

The king's daughter.

Who was king then?

Pharaoh.

Was this the same king Pharaoh that made Joseph ruler of Egypt?

No ; another king of the same name.

Whom did the king's daughter get to nurse the little child?

The child's mother.

Did she know it was his mother?

No.

What did the king's daughter call him?

Moses.

What did Moses become?

A great and good man, who delivered his people from slavery.

Was he a proud man?

No ; he was called the meekest man.

By whom were the first five books in the Bible written by inspiration of God?

By Moses.

LESSON XI.

When Moses led the Israelites out of bondage, did Pharaoh and his army pursue them?

Yes.

How did they cross the Red Sea?

God divided the waters, so that they crossed over on dry land.

What happened when Pharaoh and his army were crossing the Red Sea in pursuit of them? Did God permit them to cross in safety?

No ; he caused the waters to meet, and they were all drowned.

LESSON XII.

MOSES IN THE WILDERNESS.

After crossing the Red Sea, where did the children of Israel journey?

Into the wilderness.

Was there plenty of food and water in the wilderness?

No.

What did Moses tell them?

To have faith in God.

How did God supply them with food?

Once he sent a flock of quails for them to eat.

When they rose in the morning, what did they find on the ground?

The ground was covered with small round things resembling coriander-seeds.

What did Moses tell them it was?

Manna, or bread from heaven.

Did they find it fresh every morning?

Yes, except on the Sabbath.

Did they not have any on the Sabbath?

Yes; for he sent twice as much the day before.

Did they eat it just as it was?

No ; they ground it up and made bread of it.

How did they get water?

God told Moses to smite a rock, and the water flowed abundantly.

LESSON XIII.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.

Where did Moses get the Ten Commandments?

God gave them to him.

Where was Moses when God gave them to him?

On Mount Sinai.

How many years were the Israelites in the wilderness?

Forty years.

After Moses died, who was the leader of the Israelites?

Joshua.

When he led the Israelites out of the wilderness, what river did they have to cross to reach the promised land that God had given them?

The river Jordan.

How did they cross it?

He caused the waters to roll back the same as when they crossed the Red Sea, so that they crossed on dry land.

What did Joshua and his followers do after they landed safely?

They built a monument, so that they might always remember God's goodness in bringing them safely over the river Jordan.

LESSON XIV.

SAUL.

Who was the first king of the Jews?

Saul.

Who appointed him king?

Samuel.

Who was Samuel?

A very devout man.

Did his mother lend him to the Lord when he was young?

She did.

What was his mother's name?

Hannah.

Was Samuel one of the prophets?

He was.

You have told me that Saul was the first king of the Jews ; was he a good king?

He was at first, but grew very wicked.

How did Saul die?

By falling on his own sword.

LESSON XV.

DAVID.

Whom have you heard called the sweet singer of Israel?

David.

Why?

Because he used to play on the harp and sing praises to God.

Did he write the Book of Psalms?

All but a few, which are supposed to have been written by others.

What wicked giant did David kill with a sling when he was quite a young man?

Goliath.

Did David become king after Saul's death?

Yes.

Was David always good after he became king?

No; at one time he was wicked and disobeyed God.

Was he unhappy?

He was.

Can any one be happy when he is wicked?

No.

Did he ask God's forgiveness for his wickedness?

He did.

After God forgave him, did he sing praises to God?

Yes.

Can you repeat one of David's beautiful prayers to God?

Yes; "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God."

What did he mean by that?

He meant that he was thirsty for God's love.

In another psalm, does he tell us that God will be near us when we pray to him?

Yes. He says, "The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all them that call upon him in truth" (Ps. cxlv. 18).

LESSON XVI.

SOLOMON.

Which one of David's sons succeeded to his throne?

Solomon.

What did Solomon ask of God when he was king?

That he would give him wisdom.

Did it please God that he had asked for wisdom instead of riches?

It did.

What did he tell him?

That he would make him wiser than any king that ever lived, and also more rich and famous.

What queen of another country, hearing of the great riches of Solomon, came to see if what she had heard of his great wisdom and riches were true?

The queen of Sheba.

What did she say?

That the half had not been told her ; that his wisdom and riches were greater than she had heard.

Where can we find a history of the magnificent temple that was built by Solomon?

In the first book of Kings, the sixth chapter.

[Teacher read the chapter.]

Was Solomon the author of the book in the Bible called Ecclesiastes?

Yes ; and the Book of Proverbs.

What king afterward destroyed the temple that Solomon built?

The king of Babylon.

In what book do we read about the rebuilding of the temple?

The Book of Nehemiah.

LESSON XVII.

SAMSON.

Who was the strongest man?

Samson.

One day when he was journeying with his parents and a lion sprang at them, what did he do?

He rent it with his hands and tore it into pieces.

When he was made a prisoner, what did he do?

He leaned against the pillars or posts of the building, and threw it down.

Was he not crushed with the fall of the building?

Yes, and thousands of his enemies.

LESSON XVIII.

OTHER NOTED MEN AND WOMEN IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

Who was fed by ravens?

Elijah.

Who was the most patient man?

Job.

What beautiful Jewish queen saved her people?

Queen Esther.

Who was thrown into the den of lions?

Daniel.

Who was a loving daughter?

Ruth.

Who helped Moses in his work?

Aaron.

Part Third.

LESSONS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT.

LESSON I.

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST.

What are the first four books of the New Testament?

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

What are they called?

The Gospels.

What is the meaning of the word Gospel?

Good news.

What good news do we read of in the Gospels?

The birth of a Saviour.

To whom did the angels announce the birth of Christ?

To the shepherds watching their flocks by night.

In what words?

Fear not! for behold I bring you glad tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people (Luke xi. 10).



OUR SAVIOUR.

What guided them in their search for the young child?

The star of the east.

Where did they find the infant Saviour?

Wrapped in swaddling-clothes and lying in a manger.

What was his mother's name?

Mary.

By what other names is she called?

The Madonna, and the Virgin Mary.

LESSON II.

INCIDENTAL.

What did the wicked king Herod do when he heard of the birth of the Son of God?

He commanded that every child under two years old should be slain.

Why did he do this?

So that Christ would be destroyed.

Was he in fear that Christ would rule in his place if he did not put him to death?

He was.

How did he escape?

God sent an angel to Joseph, his earthly father, telling him to take the young child and flee into another country.

What trade did he learn when he was a young man?

He worked at the carpenter's trade, the same as Joseph his father.

How old was he when he commenced preaching?

About thirty.

Who baptized Jesus?

John the Baptist.

In what river was he baptized?

The river Jordan.

Did John the Baptist prophesy the coming of a Saviour before he was born?

He did.

LESSON III.

JESUS' WORK.

Whom did Jesus choose to help him preach the gospel and bring people to God?

Twelve disciples.

Did he choose them from among the rich?

No ; from the poor and humble.

What was the occupation of some of them?

They were fishermen.

In the fifth chapter of Matthew, what do you find?

Christ's sermon on the mount.

What prayer did Jesus teach the people?

The Lord's Prayer.

To whom did he tell the people to pray?

Our Father which art in heaven.

What else can you tell me that Jesus did, besides teaching the people to serve God and repent of their sins?

He performed many miracles.

What was one of the first miracles that he performed?

He cured the centurion's servant of the palsy.

How did he calm a tempest when he was in a ship, and his disciples were frightened, and asked him to save them?

He said to the waves, "Peace, be still."

Who were Simon Peter, Andrew, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas, and Matthew the publican, James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbeus, whose surname was Thaddeus, Simon, and Judas Iscariot?

The disciples of Jesus.

What did he tell them when he sent them forth to preach the gospel and heal the sick?

To be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

[Teacher explain the world of meaning expressed in a few words in the sentence, and how applicable it is to us.]

LESSON IV.

JESUS TEMPTED.

How long did Jesus fast in the wilderness?

Forty days.

Was he tempted to do wrong the same as other men?

Yes ; but he conquered the temptation.

Can we resist every temptation to do wrong?

Yes, with God's help.

Then a man is strong, is he not, when he resists temptation?

Yes ; and weak when he yields to it.

Yes, every time you have a temptation to do wrong, and resist it, you grow stronger and more manly and womanly ; and as little soldiers of Christ you should conquer and rise above every evil thought and inclination, and be straightforward, earnest, brave, and cheerful little workers in this busy world of ours.

LESSON V.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Who betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver?

Judas Iscariot.

How was he betrayed?

By a kiss.

[Teacher explain.]

How did Jesus institute the Holy Supper?

He took bread, and blessed it, and broke it, and gave it to his disciples.

And what did he say to them?

Take, eat; this is my body.

And when he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, what did he say?

Drink ye all of it; this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.

Who denied Jesus?

Peter.

[Teacher explain.]

Who was the beloved disciple?

John.

Who was governor of Judea?

Pontius Pilate.

What did he do with Jesus?

Delivered him to his persecutors.

LESSON VI.

THE CRUCIFIXION.

What did they do with Jesus?

Crucified him.

Where was he crucified?

On Mount Calvary.

Who were crucified with Jesus?

Two thieves.

On what day of the week was he crucified?

Friday.

What did he ask of God?

To forgive his persecutors.

Where did they put Jesus after he was dead?

In the tomb of Joseph.

LESSON VII.

THE RESURRECTION.

When did Jesus rise from the dead?

On Sunday, the third day after he was crucified.

When do we celebrate Christ's resurrection, or rising from the dead?

Easter Sunday.

For whom did Christ die?

For us.

Can you tell me some of the lessons to be learned from the life of Christ?

Yes. To obey God's commandments, to do good and be kind to every one, to relieve all the suffering we can, and to forgive our enemies.

After Jesus rose from the dead, how long did he stay upon the earth?

Forty days; and then he ascended into heaven.

I hope you are all so interested in the Bible, that you want to read and learn more of the life of Jesus. You want to read about the healing of the sick, the lame, and the palsied; about the

conversion of Zaccheus, the raising of Lazarus from the dead, the destruction of Jerusalem, and the many parables that he taught; and the older and wiser you grow, the more you will be able to see the wonderful, self-sacrificing beauty and purity of his life.

The more faithfully you follow Christ's teachings and example, the more happiness and satisfaction you will get in this world, and the nobler and more lovable your character will be. And when this life is ended, how blessed to hear your Lord and Saviour say, "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

THE BEATITUDES.

Blessed are the poor in spirit : for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn : for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek : for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness : for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful : for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart : for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peace-makers : for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake : for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

SONG.

AIR, "Oh, do not be discouraged!"

OH, we are little soldiers,
We battle for the right ;
Oh, we are little soldiers,
We battle for the right.
For the Saviour is our captain,
For the Saviour is our captain,
And he will vanquish sin.
He will lead us safe through danger,
He will lead us safe through danger,
He will lead us safe through danger,
On to heaven our happy home.
Oh, I'm glad I'm in this army ;
Oh, I'm glad I'm in this army ;
If we follow him the victory's won.

THE END.

BK
9921



0 022 190 344 4

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPPLIES.

WE call the attention of **PASTORS, SUPERINTENDENTS, and TEACHERS** to the Stock of Goods required by them for use in their Sunday-school work, to be found at the **UNIVERSALIST PUBLISHING HOUSE, Boston, Mass.**

We can furnish, among other things for that purpose, the following:—

Approved Class Books,	Commentaries,
Collection Envelopes,	Bible Dictionaries,
A large Assortment of Sunday-School Cards,	
Supt's Record Books,	Approved School Record Books,
Maps of all kinds,	Sunday-School Libraries,
Blackboards,	Library Cards,
Service Books,	Library Records,
Instruction Books,	Library Labels,
Singing Books,	Library Numbers,
Concordances,	The Winchester Confession, on cards,
Sunday-School Concert Helps,	Sunday-School Speakers.

Everything required for Use in a Sunday School

FURNISHED AT SHORT NOTICE.

Officers and Teachers are invited to examine our Stock.

UNIVERSALIST PUBLISHING HOUSE,
16 Bromfield Street, Boston, Mass.